



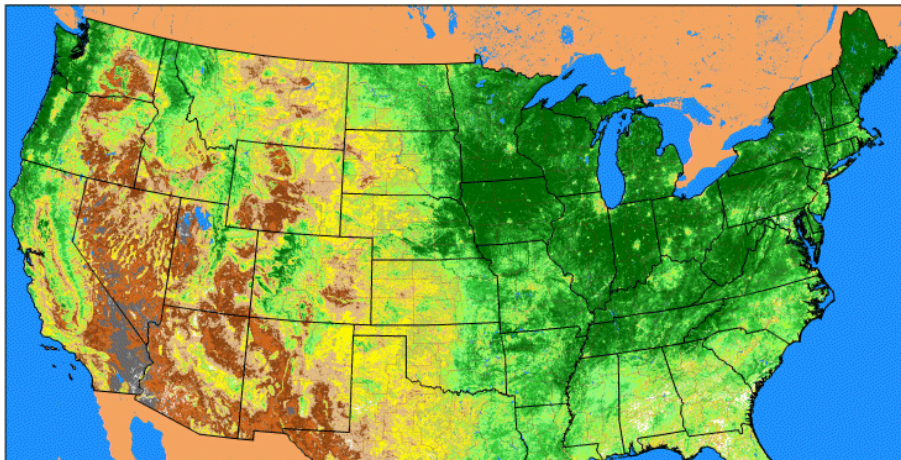
Montana Drought Advisory Committee

**USDA NASS Montana Field
Office**

**Peggy Stringer
Director**

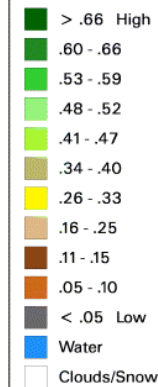
March 14, 2006

Conterminous U.S. Vegetation Condition - 2005
Period 32 (7/27 - 8/9)



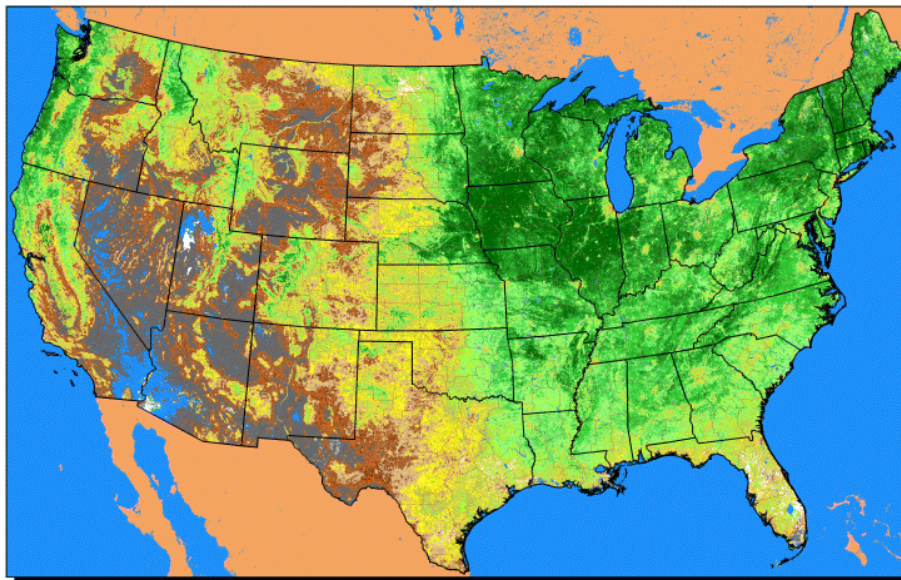
No Water Vapor
Correction Applied

Vegetation Index



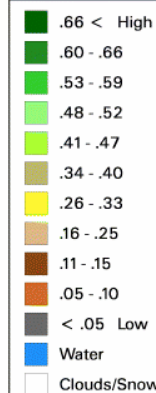
Aug 9, 2005

Conterminous U.S. Vegetation Condition - 2004
Period 32 (7/29 - 8/11)



No Water Vapor
Correction Applied

Vegetation Index



Aug 11, 2004

0 100 200 300 400 500 Miles

Agricultural Statistics Districts
1:15,000,000

Original Imagery: NOAA-16 AVHRR
Resolution: 1 Kilometer
Composite Imagery: USDA ERDC Data Center
Questions or Comments Call (703)235-5218
For Additional Images Please See:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/research>



August 1 Production Forecast

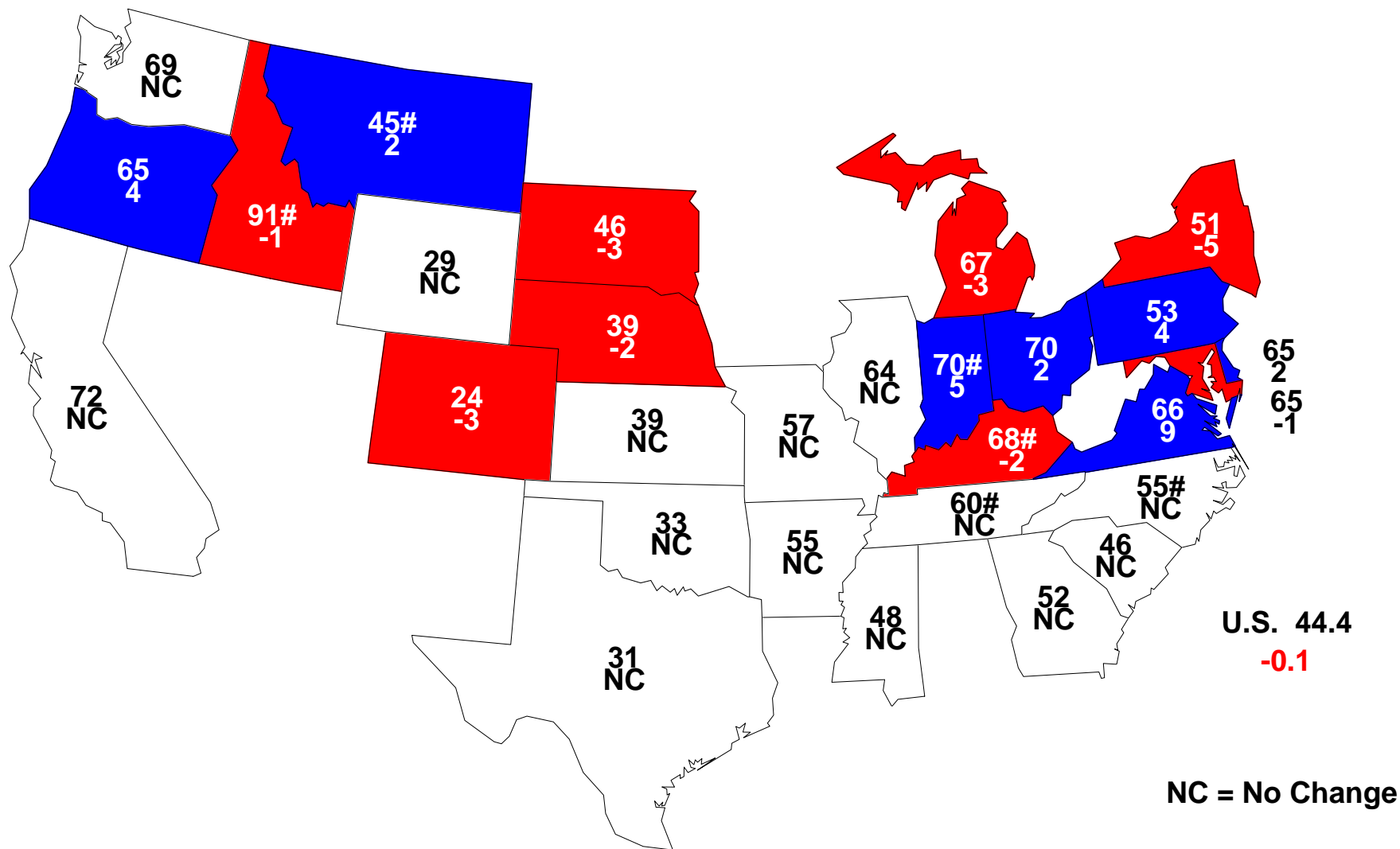


**Dry, hot, & windy
conditions in July ripened
Spring seeded crops quickly**

**Wheat production is 1% lower
than July forecast but 11%
higher than last year**

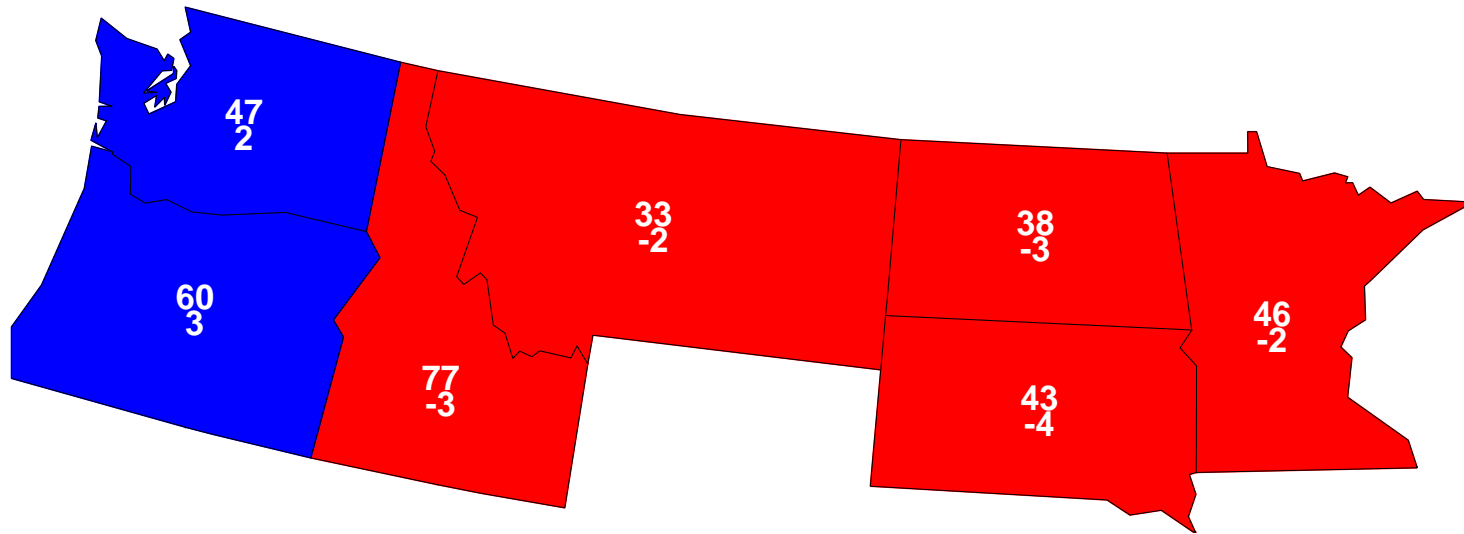
Winter Wheat Yields, August 1, 2005

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Other Spring Wheat Yields, August 1, 2005

Bushels and Change From Previous Month

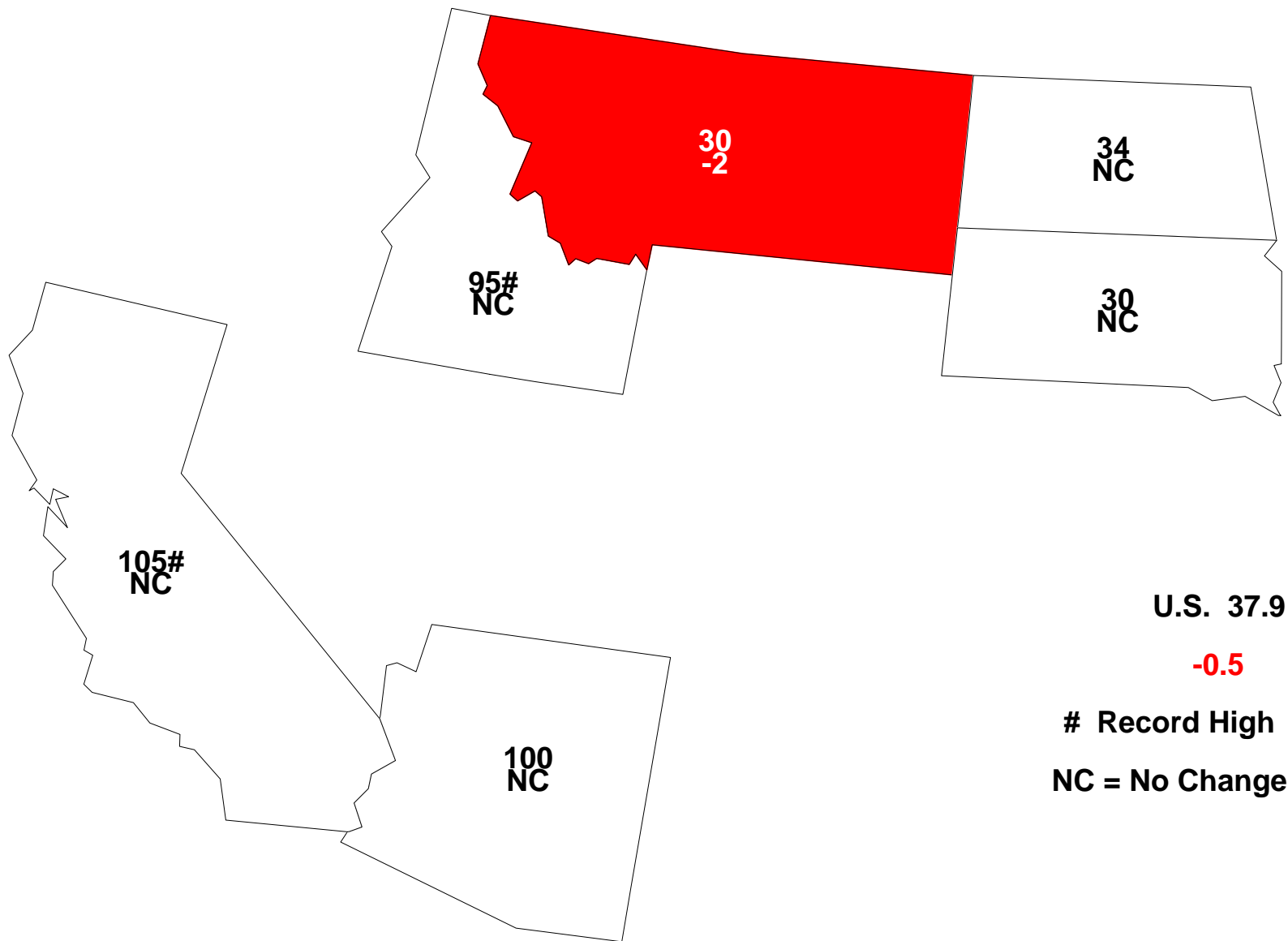


U.S. 40.6
-2.6

Record High
NC = No Change

Durum Wheat Yields, August 1, 2005

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Montana's August 2005 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '05	% Chg from Prev Forecast	% Chg from Prev Season
Winter:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.05	NC	+25.8
Yield	Bu/Ac	45.0	+4.7	+9.8
Production	Mil Bu	92.3	+4.7	+38.0
Other Spring:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.5	NC	-12.3
Yield	Bu/Ac	33.0	-5.7	+6.5
Production	Mil Bu	82.5	-5.7	-6.6
Durum:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	.56	NC	+2.8
Yield	Bu/Ac	30.0	-6.3	-9.1
Production	Mil Bu	16.8	-6.3	-6.6
All Wheat:				
Production	Mil Bu	191.6	-1.0	+10.6

Montana's August 2005 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '05	% Chg from 2004
Barley			
Harvested	Mil Ac	.75	-9.6
Yield	Bu/Ac	60.0	+1.7
Production	Mil Bu	45.0	-8.1

Montana's August 2005 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '05	% Chg from 2004
All Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	2,950	+18.0
Yield	Tons	2.12	+11.6
Production	(000)Tons	6,250	+31.3
Alfalfa Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,700	+21.4
Yield	Tons	2.50	+8.7
Production	(000)Tons	4,250	+32.0
Other Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,250	+13.6
Yield	Tons	1.60	+14.3
Production	(000)Tons	2,000	+29.9

Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Harvested acreage

- 2,050,000 acres to be harvested for grain
- 420,000 more harvested acres than last year

Production

- 92.3 million bu
- 25.4 million bu more than last year
- Up 4.1 million bu from July forecast

Winter Wheat August Production Forecast



Yield

- 2005 yield forecast 45 bu per acre
 - 2 bu higher than July 1, 2005 forecast
- 2004 yield 41 bu per acre
 - 2005 forecast 4 bu higher than last year
- Record yield, surpassing 42 bu ac in 1993

Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



On August 1 indications point to an excellent winter wheat crop

Final winter wheat estimates

Small grains summary released September 30

Spring Planted Crops

**Spring planted crops
progress ahead of last
year**

**July's hot, dry, windy
conditions ripened crop
quickly**



Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 2.6 million acres planted
- 400,000 acres less than last year

Acres for harvest

- 2.5 million acres for harvest
- Same as July, but down 350,000 acres from last year

Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Production

- Forecast at 82.5 million bu
- Down 5 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Down 7% from last year

Yield

- 33 bu per ac, down 2 bu from July 1
- 2 bu more than last year

Durum Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 16.8 million bu, down 6% from July 1
- Down 7% from last year

Yield

- 30 bu per ac, down 2 bu from July 1
- 3 bu less than last year

Barley August 1 Production Forecast



Production

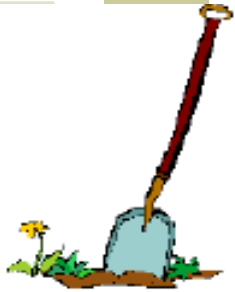
- 45.0 million bu, unchanged from July 1 forecast
- Compared with 49.0 million bu last year

Yield

- 60.0 bu per ac, unchanged from July 1 forecast
- 1 bu more per acre than last year
- Surpassing last year's record yield by 1 bu

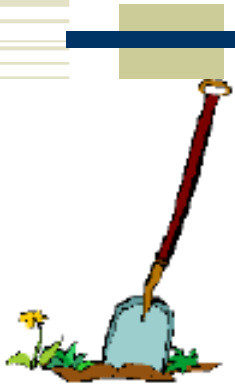
Crop Weather for the Week Ending August 14, 2005





Topsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month, Better than Last Year & 5-Year Average

August 14, 2005	This week	Last Month	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short - short	65%	20%	75%	78%
Adequate	33%	77%	25%	21%
Surplus	2%	3%	0%	1%



Subsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month, Better than Last Year & 5-Year Average

August 14, 2005	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short - short	71%	36%	82%	84%
Adequate	28%	61%	18%	16%
Surplus	1%	3%	0%	0%



Crop Weather Report

Week Ending August 14, 2005

- ◆ Winter wheat harvest nearing completion, way ahead of last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Harvest of spring seeded grains ahead of last year and five-year average, with almost all of the crop ready for harvest



Crop Weather Report

Week Ending August 14, 2005

- ◆ Crop progress ahead of last year, due to July's hot, dry conditions
- ◆ Second cutting of hay well underway

Winter Wheat Progress Ahead Last Year & 5-Year Average



August 14, 2005	This week	Last year	5-yr ave
Winter Wheat Harvested	90%	63%	77%



Spring Wheat Crop Condition Better than Last Year & 5-Yr Average

August 14, 2005	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	7%	16%	58%	19%
Last month	4%	15%	66%	15%
Last year	21%	26%	44%	9%
5-yr ave	32%	33%	27%	8%



Spring Wheat Progress Ahead Last Year & 5-Yr Ave

August 14, 2005	This week	Last year	5-yr ave
Spring wheat			
Turning	98%	90%	92%
Harvested	33%	12%	28%

Barley

Crop Progress Ahead Last Year & 5-Year Average



	This week	Last year	5-yr ave
Barley			
Turning	96%	93%	92%
Harvested	37%	23%	35%



Barley Crop Condition Better than Last Year & 5-Yr Average

	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	9%	28%	46%	17%
Last month	4%	22%	53%	21%
Last year	13%	31%	43%	13%
5-yr ave	34%	34%	25%	7%



Hay Harvest Behind Last Year

	This week	Last year	5-yr ave
Alfalfa hay			
Second cutting	42%	45%	53%
Other hay			
Second cutting	31%	33%	26%

Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture conditions well ahead of last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Dry weather starting to affect quality of forage
- ◆ Ranchers are hauling water to livestock
- ◆ Due to abundant range, livestock should be marketed at heavier weights



Range & Pasture Conditions Much Better than Last Year & 5- Year Avg.

	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr ave
Very poor-poor	16%	11%	47%	52%
Fair	39%	25%	30%	30%
Good	38%	50%	20%	15%
Excellent	7%	14%	3%	3%

To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter Wheat and Barley yield forecast is at record levels because of spring rains
- ◆ 2005 is a good year for Montana farmers and ranchers
- ◆ Need more moisture to improve top soil & subsoil